Amendments to the Claims:

1- 45 (cancelled)

46. (currently amended) A system for ~~determining a charge~~ processing data associated with a freight shipment, comprising:

a rate sheet input module capable of accepting a plurality of rate sheets wherein each rate sheet specifies published freight rates and each rate sheet is associated with one of a plurality of freight carriers and is respectively structured according to one of a plurality of formats, the rate sheet input module further receiving and storing a rate sheet associated with the one of a plurality of freight carriers and structured according to one of the plurality of formats;

a rate sheet analyzer module adapted to interface with a template storage module ~~for~~ storing a plurality of templates, wherein one of the plurality of templates is associated with a specific freight carrier and is structured according to said one of the plurality of formats to interpret the rate sheet, the rate sheet analyzer module selecting the one of the plurality of templates by matching the one of the plurality of freight carriers associated with the rate sheet with the specific freight carrier associated with the one of the plurality of templates; and

a rule generation module determining a freight charge associated with the freight carrier using the selected one of the plurality of templates and the rate sheet.

47. (previously presented) The system of claim 46 wherein the rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.

48. (previously presented) The system of claim 46 wherein the rate sheet specifies zone-based rates.

49. (previously presented) The system of claim 46 wherein the system further comprises a user-interface module adapted to receive input from a user indicating the specific freight carrier associated with the rate sheet.

50. (previously presented) The system of claim 47 where the rate sheet analyzer module selects the template to interpret the rate sheet based on a keyword in the rate sheet.

51. (previously presented) The system of claim 50 where the keyword identifies the freight carrier.

52. (previously presented) The system of claim 50 where the selection of the template to interpret the rate sheet based on the keyword in the rate sheet is based on the location of the keyword in the rate sheet.

53. (previously presented) The system of claim 46 wherein the template storage module is in a remote location with respect to the rate sheet analyzer module.

54. (previously presented) The system of claim 53 further comprising:

a communications module for communicating the rate sheet to the remote location, the communication module receiving the template adapted to interpret the received rate sheet, the communications module providing the template to the template storage module.

55. (previously presented) The system of claim 50 further comprising a tariffs module for calculating a tariff charge, the freight charge comprising the tariff charge.

56. (previously presented) The system of claim 55 further comprising a compliance module for determining whether a proposed shipment of goods to a destination country complies with import regulations of the destination country.

57. (previously presented) The system of claim 46 further comprising a logging module wherein the freight charge is stored in a file.

58. (previously presented) The system of claim 46 further comprising a packaging module wherein the freight charge is determined based in part on a package weight calculation provided by the packaging module.

59. (previously presented) The system of claim 46 further comprising:

an accessorial charge module for accepting data representative of accessorial charges associated with the freight rates and determining an accessorial charge wherein the freight charge comprises the accessorial charge.

60. (previously presented) A method of determining a charge associated with a freight shipment comprising:

receiving freight data associated with freight to be shipped;

receiving data representative of a rate sheet, the rate sheet specifying published freight rates associated with a freight carrier;

storing the rate sheet;

selecting a template from a template storage module by matching a first freight carrier associated with the template with a freight carrier indicated in the rate sheet;

retrieving the template from a template storage module to interpret the rate sheet, the template storage module storing a plurality of templates wherein each template is adapted to respectively interpret a particular rate sheet; and

generating a freight charge using the selected template to interpret the rate sheet in conjunction with the freight data.

61. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.

62. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the rate sheet specifies zone-based rates.

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 further comprising:

receiving input from a user providing identifying information associated with the rate sheet.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 63 wherein the rate sheet identifying information associated with the rate sheet identifies the freight carrier associated with the rate sheet.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein retrieving a template from the template storage module to interpret the rate sheet is based on a keyword in the rate sheet.

66. (previously presented) The method of claim 65 wherein the keyword identifies the freight carrier.

67. (previously presented) The method of claim 65 wherein retrieving a template from the template storage module to interpret the rate sheet is based on the location of the keyword in the rate sheet.

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the template storage module is in a remote location with respect to the rate sheet analyzer module.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 68 further comprising the step of:

transmitting the rate sheet module to the remote location; and

receiving an identifier associated with the rate sheet used by the rate sheet analyzer module to select the template.

70. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 further comprising:

receiving a second template for interpreting a second rate sheet; and

storing the second template in the template storage module.

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 further comprising:

accepting data representative of accessorial charges associated with the freight rates; and

generating the freight charge comprising an accessorial charge.

72. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium product having computer program logic embodied therein for determining a freight charge, the computer program logic comprising:

a rate sheet input module capable of accepting a plurality of rate sheets associated with a plurality of carriers wherein each rate sheet specifies published freight rates and each rate sheet is respectively structured according to one of a plurality of formats, the rate sheet input module further receiving a specific rate sheet associated with a freight carrier and structured according to one of the plurality of formats;

a rate sheet analyzer module adapted to interface with a template storage module for storing a plurality of templates wherein one of the plurality of templates is adapted to interpret the specific rate sheet, the rate sheet analyzer module selecting the one of the plurality of templates to interpret the specific rate sheet by matching a first freight carrier associated with the one of the plurality of templates with the freight carrier associated with the specific rate sheet; and

a rule generation module calculating the freight charge associated with the freight carrier using the selected one of the plurality of templates and the specific rate sheet.

73. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 wherein the specific rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.

74. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 wherein the specific rate sheet specifying zone-based rates.

75. (previously presented)The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 wherein the system further comprises a user-interface module adapted to receive input from a user to specify information about the specific rate sheet.

76. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium product of claim 73 where the rate sheet analyzer module selects the template to interpret the specific rate sheet based on a keyword

in the rate sheet.

77. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium product of claim 76 where the keyword identifies the freight carrier.

78. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium product of claim 73 where the selection of the template to interpret the specific rate sheet based on the keyword in the rate sheet is based on the location of the keyword in the rate sheet.

79. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium product module of claim 72 further comprising:

a communications module for communicating the rate sheet to a remote system for analysis, the communication module further adapted for receiving an indication from the remote system identifying the template to interpret the specific rate sheet.

80. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 further comprising:

a communications module for communicating the specific rate sheet to a remote system for analysis, the communication module further adapted for receiving the template from the remote system, the communications module providing the template to the template storage module.

81. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 further comprising:

a communications module adapted for receiving and storing templates in the template

storage module.

82. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 further comprising:

an accessorial charge module accepting data representative of accessorial charges associated with the freight rates for generating an accessorial charge.

83. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium product of claim 82 wherein the rule generation module calculates the freight charge comprising the accessorial charge.